

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

reserving resources from a prepayment system for prepaid data services, the prepaid data services being divided into at least two service groups of different charging criteria in a network, wherein an initial data delivery limit is set for each service group based on the resources and information about the charging criteria; and

~~directing sending~~ a message to be sent containing information about the initial data delivery limits from a rating device to a measuring device, wherein a proportional data delivery limit is allocated for each service group individually and the proportional data delivery limit for each service group is defined as a proportion of the initial data delivery limit for the respective service group, and wherein remaining resources to the service groups are reallocated based on a pricing weight of each of the service groups, each pricing weight being defined for the respective service group as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the service group, to obtain a new proportional data delivery limit for each service group individually, the new proportional data delivery limits being for use in delivery of data after a service group has exceeded its proportional data delivery limit.

2.-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising receiving a report from the measuring device to at the rating device only after all of the reserved resources are used.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the initial data delivery limit is defined as a volume equivalent to a same amount of money for each service group.

6. (Previously presented) A system, comprising:

a prepayment system hosting prepaid resources;

a rating device configured to receive information of the prepaid resources and of charging criteria of service groups and to set initial data delivery limits for the service groups based on the received information; and

a measuring device configured to allocate a proportional data delivery limit for each service group individually, wherein each proportional data delivery limit is defined as a proportion of the initial data delivery limit for the respective service group, to measure use of each of the service groups, and to reallocate remaining free resources to the service groups based on a pricing weight of each of the service groups, each pricing weight being defined for the respective service group as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the service group, to obtain a new proportional data delivery limit for each service group individually for delivery of data when a one of the service groups exceeds its proportional data delivery limit.

7. (Previously presented) A system, comprising

at least one data communication network;

a prepayment system hosting prepaid resources;

a rating device configured to receive information of the prepaid resources and of charging criteria of service groups and to set an initial data delivery limits for each of the service groups based on the received information; and

a measuring device configured to allocate a proportional data delivery limit for each service group individually, wherein each proportional data delivery limit is defined as a proportion of the initial data delivery limit of the respective service group, to measure use of each of the service groups, and to reallocate remaining free resources to the service groups, and wherein the remaining free resources are reallocated based on a pricing weight of each of the service groups, the pricing weight being defined for each service group as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the service group, to obtain a new proportional data delivery

limit for each service group individually for delivery of data when a one of the service groups exceeds its proportional data delivery limit.

8. (Previously presented) The system in accordance with claim 7, wherein the at least one data communication network comprises a packet core communication network for communication of data between users and the measuring device and a public data network for communication of data between the measuring device and providers of the prepaid services.

9. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a rating device configured to:

reserve resources from a prepayment system for prepaid data services, the prepaid data services being divided into at least two service groups of different charging criteria in a network;

set an initial data delivery limit for each service group based on the resources and information about the charging criteria; and

~~direct send~~ a message ~~to be sent~~ containing information about the initial data delivery limits from the rating device to measuring device; and

a measuring device configured to:

allocate, in the measuring device, a proportional data delivery limit for each service group individually as a proportion of the initial data delivery limit for the respective service group;

define, in the measuring device, a pricing weight for each service group as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the respective service group; and

reallocate, in the measuring device, remaining resources to the service groups based on a pricing weight of each of the service groups to obtain a new proportional data delivery limit for each service group individually, the new proportional data delivery limits being for use in delivery of data after at least one of the service groups has exceeded its proportional data delivery limit.

10-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the measuring device is further configured to ~~direct send~~ a report ~~to be sent~~ from the ~~meter measuring device~~ to the rating device only after all of the reserved resources are used.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the measuring device is further configured to define the initial data delivery for each service group.

14. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
a rating device configured to:
reserve resources from a prepayment system;
receive information of charging criteria of at least two service groups of prepaid data services, the charging criteria for each service group being different;
set an initial data delivery limit for the each service group based on the received information and the reserved resources; and
~~direct send~~ a message ~~to be sent~~ containing information about the initial data delivery limits to a measuring device; to enable a proportional data delivery limit to be defined for each service group as a proportion of an initial data delivery limit for the service group and to enable remaining free resources to be reallocated to the service groups based on a pricing weight of each of the data service groups, wherein the pricing weight for each data service group is defined as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the respective data service group.

15. (Previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:
measuring device configured to:

define and allocate a proportional data delivery limit for each of at least two data service groups of different charging criteria as a proportion of an initial data delivery limit for the data service group;

measure use of each of the data service groups;

define a pricing weight for each data service group as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the respective data service group; and

reallocate remaining free resources to the service groups based on the pricing weights of the service groups to obtain new proportional data delivery limits for each data service group individually for delivery of data when at least one of the data service groups exceeds its proportional data delivery limit.

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein a proportional data delivery limit is defined for each service group as a proportion of the initial data delivery limit.

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein a pricing weight is defined for each service group as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the service group.

18. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the initial data delivery limit comprises a volume equivalent to a same amount of money for each service group.

19-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein, only after all of the reserved resources are used, a report is ~~directed to be~~ sent from the apparatus to a rating device configured to obtain information of the prepaid resources and

of the charging criteria of service groups and to set the initial data delivery limits for the service groups based on the obtained information.

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the initial data delivery limit is defined as a volume equivalent to a same amount of money for each service group.

23. (Previously presented) A method comprising:
defining and allocating a proportional data delivery limit for each of at least two data service groups of different charging criteria as a proportion of an initial data delivery limit for the service group;
measuring, in the measuring device, use of each of the service groups;
defining a price weight for each service group as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the service group; and
reallocating remaining free resources to the service groups based on the pricing weights of each of the service groups to obtain a new proportional data delivery limit for each service group individually for delivery of data when a one of the service groups exceeds its proportional data delivery limit.

24-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 23, further comprising ~~directing-sending~~ a report to be sent to a rating device only after all of the reserved resources are used, wherein the rating device is configured to obtain information of the prepaid resources and of the charging criteria of the service groups and to set the initial data delivery limits for the service groups based on the obtained information.

27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein the initial data delivery limit is defined as a volume equivalent to a same amount of money for each service group.

28. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:
reserving resources from a prepayment system;
receiving, in a rating device, information of charging criteria of service groups of prepaid data services, the charging criteria for each service group being different;
setting an initial data delivery limit for the each of the service groups based on the received information and the reserved resources;
~~directing~~ sending a message ~~to be sent~~ containing information about each of the initial data delivery limits to a measuring device to enable a proportional data delivery limit to be defined for each service group as a proportion of an initial data delivery limit for the service group and to enable remaining free resources to be reallocated to the service groups based on a pricing weight of each of the data service groups, wherein the pricing weight for each data service group is defined as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the respective data service group.

29. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 28, wherein the initial data delivery limit comprises a volume equivalent to a same amount of money for each service group.

30. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
reserving means for reserving resources from a prepayment system;
processing means for receiving information of charging criteria of service groups of prepaid data services, the charging criteria for each service group being different, and for setting an initial data delivery limits for each of the service groups based on the received information and the reserved resources; and
~~transmitting~~ means for causing sending a message to be sent containing information about each of the initial data delivery limits to a measuring device to enable a proportional data delivery limit to be defined for each service group as a proportion of an initial data delivery limit for the service group and to enable

remaining free resources to be reallocated to the service groups based on a pricing weight of each of the data service groups, wherein the pricing weight for each data service group is defined as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the respective data service group.

31. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 30, comprising wherein the initial data delivery limit is defined as a volume equivalent to a same amount of money for each service group.

32. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:
processor means for defining and allocating a proportional data delivery limit for each of at least two data service groups of different charging criteria as a proportion of an initial data delivery limit for the service group, and for defining a price weight for each service group as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the service group; and

measuring means for measuring use of each of the service groups, wherein the processing means is further for reallocating remaining free resources to the service groups based on a pricing weight of the each of the service groups, to obtain a new proportional data delivery limit for each service group individually for delivery of data when at least one of the service groups exceeds its proportional data delivery limit.

33-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising sending means for sending a report from the measuring device to the rating device after substantially all of the reserved resources are used.

36. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the initial data delivery limit is defined as a volume equivalent to a same amount of money for each service group.

37. (Previously presented) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium configured to control a processor to perform:

defining and allocating a proportional data delivery for each of at least two data service groups of different charging criteria as a proportion of an initial data delivery limit for the service group;

measuring use of each of the service groups;

defining a price weight for each service group as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the service group; and

reallocating remaining free resources to the service groups based on the pricing weight of each of the service groups to obtain a new proportional data delivery limit for each service group individually for delivery of data when at least one of the service group groups exceeds its proportional data delivery limit.

38. (Currently amended) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium configured to control a processor to perform:

reserving resources from a prepayment system;

receiving information ~~charging criteria~~ and of charging criteria of service groups of prepaid data services, the charging criteria for each service group being different;

setting an initial data delivery limit for the each of the service groups based on the received information and the reserved resources; and

directing sending of a message containing information about each of the initial data delivery limits to a measuring device to enable a proportional data delivery limit to be defined for each service group as a proportion of an initial data delivery limit for the service group and to enable remaining free resources to be reallocated to the service groups based on a pricing weight of each of the data service groups, wherein the pricing weight for each data service group is defined as a proportion of a sum of the proportional data delivery limits to the initial data delivery limit of the respective data service group.